

5/14/64 - Testimony of J. Edgar Hoover

(V5-p99) HOOVER: . . . I have been unable to find any scintilla of evidence showing any foreign . . . or domestic conspiracy that culminated in the assassination of President Kennedy. . . . There have been publications and books written, the contents of which have been absurd and without a scintilla of foundation of fact. . . . Reports in which there is a controversial issue or where statements have been made of the existence of some particular thing that we have never heard of before, I myself go over these to see that we haven't missed anything or haven't had any gap in the investigation so it can be tied down.

(V5-pl01) . . . I think when a book or article of that (Buchanan's) type comes out that deals with the assassination . . . it should be gone into from an investigative point of view . . .

DULLES: . . . I wish you would add to your list a book called, "The Red Roses of Dallas" by a man named Gun. He is a more reliable correspondent. . . . He has been living in this country since 1946. I have met him over here. Let's see, he was in Dallas at the time. He was then reporting, I think, for the Italian newspaper Epoca. . . . He might have been lying. This book is full of lies. But I think it is a book that ought to be added, too, and I will see that a copy is sent to the Bureau.

HOOVER: I would appreciate that.

7/23/64 - Testimony of Eddy Raymond (Buddy) Walthers, Deputy Sheriff plain clothes criminal investigator.

At the sound of the shots he said he ran from Main and Houston across to the north side of Elm Street and joined the other police behind the solid board stockade fence on the grassy knoll in searching through the parking area and railroad yards to the west of the TSBD building. Then he returned to Elm Street and . . .

(V7-p546) WALTHERS: . . . (I) went over on this grassy area right in here . . . Between Elm and Main, and started looking at the grass to see if some shots had been fired and some of them might have chugged into the turf here and it would give an indication if some had really been, if they were really shots and not just blanks or something, and a man . . . (Tague, told him that something had struck his cheek over on Main Street) . . . and I started to search in that immediate area (on Main Street) and found a place on the curb there in the Main Street lane there close to the underpass where a projectile had struck that curb. . .

(V7-p550) LIEBELER: There has also been a story, some sort of story that you were supposed to have found a spent bullet.

WALTHERS: Yes; that's what the story was in this book, and man, I've never made a statement about finding a spent bullet.

LIEBELER: You never found any spent bullet?

WALTHERS: No; . . . I never did in all of my life tell anybody I found a bullet other than where it hit.

NOTE: The book Dulles mentions, "The Red Roses of Dallas" by Nerin E. Gun, first appeared in French. This French version did not have the enclosed picture in it. The English version, entitled "The Red Roses from Texas" by Nerin E. Gun, did have the enclosed picture in it. In view of the fact that the "Secret Service agent" in the picture is, in reality, Sheriff Bill Decker, Walthers is pretty cute in his denial that he was "looking for a bullet with any Secret Service agent" ---- in the picture he was looking for a bullet with Sheriff Bill Decker.

NOTE: Commission Exhibit 2580 has no first page - - Page 1 is missing. Compare with the information contained on the first page of Commission Exhibit 2585, Buchanan's book "Who Killed Kennedy?" investigation by FBI, to try to figure out why they left it out.

NO BEGINNING

"THE RED ROSES OF DALLAS"

4. CLAIM: Oswald was treated at Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas, Texas, at the age of seven after an automobile accident. Pages 124 and 129.

INVESTIGATION: Records of the hospital do not substantiate Gun's claim. Those records do show, however, that Oswald, at age five, was treated as an emergency case on April 18, 1945, for an injury sustained when hit in the left eye by a rock. He was treated with ice packs and discharged on April 19, 1945.

5. CLAIM: A doctor examining President Kennedy at Parkland Memorial Hospital found on his stretcher a bullet that, without doubt, had fallen from one of the President's wounds in the course of surgical measures. Page 133.

INVESTIGATION: The Secret Service has advised this Bureau that the bullet found in the hospital in connection with the assassination was reportedly found as it fell from a stretcher used in the handling and treatment of Texas Governor John B. Connally. This bullet was examined by the FBI Laboratory and was found to have been fired from the rifle owned by Oswald.

6. CLAIM: A "Buddy Walthers" of the Dallas County Sheriff's Office affirms that the shots, or at least one of the shots, fired in the assassination had come from the overpass in front of the Presidential motorcade. In addition, Walthers ran in that direction and with a Secret Service Agent found a bullet, "the fourth bullet," in the grass near the overpass. Pages 132 and 211.

INVESTIGATION: Walthers is undoubtedly Eddie Raymond Walthers of the Dallas County Sheriff's Office who has denied making the above statement regarding the origin of the bullet, has denied looking for a bullet with any Secret Service Agent, and has denied finding "the fourth bullet." In addition, the Secret Service has advised that it has no knowledge of any of its Agents finding a "fourth bullet."

7. CLAIM: The number of employees in the Texas School Book Depository Building is referred to as 91 and more than 250. Pages 133 and 204.

INVESTIGATION: In connection with this Bureau's inquiry, signed statements were taken from 73 individuals reportedly working in this building on the day of the assassination and it was determined that two individuals in the building on the day in question were on sick leave on the day when the signed statements were taken.

- 3 -

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2580

"THE RED ROSES OF DALLAS"

12. CLAIM: The Dallas Police Department found on Oswald after his arrest the Post Office Box number to which the alleged assassination rifle had been shipped. Page 144.

INVESTIGATION: No such item was observed by Agents of this Bureau among photographs of things taken from Oswald when he was arrested.

13. CLAIM: Oswald affirmed to Pauline Bates, public stenographer of Fort Worth, Texas, in June, 1963, that he had become a "secret agent" of the United States Government and that he was soon going to return to Russia "for Washington." Page 172.

INVESTIGATION: Miss Bates has denied a newspaper report that Oswald told her he was working for the United States Department of State. She has advised that when Oswald first told her that the State Department had advised him he would be on his own while in Russia she assumed that he was working with the Department of State. However, she realized later that her assumption was false.

14. CLAIM: One Lucio Lopez, employed by the Mexican bus line, Transportes Frontera, recognized Oswald on television as a passenger who had asked him to indicate a cheap hotel and then to obtain a reduction in the Federal tax on the ticket. One claims that Lopez showed him Oswald's name on a list of travelers crossing the border into Mexico. In addition, Lopez stated that Oswald confided in him an intention to go to Cuba and asked him if a secret route existed. Pages 173 and 174.

INVESTIGATION: Our inquiry has shown that a Lucio Lopez Medina, baggage and freight handler for Transportes Frontera in Mexico City, believes he wrote "Oswald" on an October 2, 1963, manifest of the bus line. However, Medina has stated he had no personal recollection of Oswald, could not recognize Oswald in a photograph as anyone who had been at the bus terminal, and did not believe Oswald embarked on the bus noted in the manifest.

15. CLAIM: At the time of Oswald's trip to Mexico he was under surveillance by the FBI. Page 174.

INVESTIGATION: Oswald was not under day-by-day surveillance by this Bureau and was not "wanted" in the sense of fugitive. This Bureau was, of course, alert to any information which would indicate that a Soviet intelligence service had an interest in Oswald and was in contact with him.

NO ENDING

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2580-Continued

RED ROSES OF DALLAS

8. CLAIM: Captain Will Fritz, Chief of Detectives of the municipal police of Dallas, had the description of Oswald broadcast over the police radio system after he had been advised by Ray S. Truly, Superintendent of the Texas School Book Depository, that Oswald was missing from the building. Pages 133 and 134.

INVESTIGATION: Captain J. W. Fritz, Dallas Police Department, advised that he did not have a description of Oswald broadcast for fear that Oswald might learn he was wanted. Captain Fritz has also stated that he did not advise anyone else at the Dallas Police Department of Oswald's description. The description broadcast by the Dallas Police Department at 12:43 p.m. on November 22, 1963, was obtained from an unidentified individual who furnished the information to a police official at the scene of the Texas School Book Depository Building. It is noted that at the time of the above broadcast Captain Fritz had not yet been advised by Mr. Truly that Oswald was missing from the building.

9. CLAIM: According to police, Marina Oswald is said to have recognized the weapon of the crime as belonging to her husband. Page 137.

INVESTIGATION: Marina Oswald advised an Agent of this Bureau on November 22, 1963, that she had been shown a rifle at the Dallas Police Department on that date that had been reportedly found in the Texas School Book Depository Building. She advised that she was unable to identify it positively as the rifle kept in the garage at Mrs. Ruth Paine's residence by Oswald.

10. CLAIM: Following Oswald's arrest, a paper found in his wallet had his Beckley Street address. Page 137.

INVESTIGATION: After Oswald's arrest, he admitted to Dallas Police Department interrogators and FBI Agents that he had been living at 1026 North Beckley Street, in Dallas, Texas. However, no such paper was found among photographs of the articles in Oswald's wallet shown as FBI Agent on November 24, 1963.

11. CLAIM: In a certain photograph taken by an amateur at the passing of the President's procession, Oswald can clearly be seen brandishing the rifle of the crime and the pistol which served to kill Dallas Police Officer Tippit. Page 131.

INVESTIGATION: Investigation by this Bureau has failed to develop any information regarding the existence of such a photograph.

- 3 -

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2580-Continued

NO BEGINNING RE: PAULINE BATES

ME 100-10461

After typing the 10 pages, she told him she had typed \$10 worth of material and would be glad to type the remainder of his notes on credit. He was not agreeable to this and picked up his notes and typed pages, paid her with a \$10 bill and left. He never returned.

After typing the notes, she mentioned this to her friend, CAROLINE HAMILTON, who is a reporter for The Fort Worth Press. Later, CAROLINE HAMILTON told her her people had tried unsuccessfully to contact LEE OSWALD regarding his diary.

After President KENNEDY was assassinated, she was contacted by CAROLINE HAMILTON. This was the first time she had tied up LEE OSWALD with the assassination.

On the afternoon of November 29, 1963, she had a recorded interview with the television network in her office. She pointed out the story by CAROLINE HAMILTON which appeared in the Fort Worth Press on November 29, 1963 is correct in every detail with the one exception that LEE OSWALD never stated he was working for the United States State Department. She explained LEE OSWALD stated the State Department was reluctant to give him a visa and told him he would be on his own while in Russia. From this statement she at first assumed he was working with the State Department but later realized her assumption was false.

About 3:30 PM, November 29, 1963, she received a phone call at her home from a woman who stated she was Mrs. OSWALD, mother of LEE OSWALD. Mrs. OSWALD stated "I cannot tell you where I am because I am under tight security. I heard an interview of your on the radio regarding typing LEE's diary. I remember him saying he had a public stenographer type some of his notes. I wish you wouldn't talk with anyone about this until I can talk with you. Otherwise you may hurt his widow and the children."

BATES stated she explained to Mrs. OSWALD she had originally been interviewed by a television network and had received almost 100 telephone calls from the news media from all over the United States. She also pointed out there was nothing of a derogatory nature in any of her statements to the press and television people. Mrs. OSWALD never mentioned if she knew where

NO ENDING 538

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2581

U.S. CAPITOL HEB